

The Urban District Council of Formby.

TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1927.



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1927.

LAURISTON, FORMBY.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Formby
Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in submitting my Twenty-third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for 1927.

DEATH RATE.

During the year 64 deaths (37 males and 27 females) took place, giving the death rate of 8.6 per 1,000.

BIRTH RATE.

123 Births were registered (72 boys and 51 girls); this gives a birth rate of 16.5 per 1,000.

INFECTIOUS CASES.

21 Infectious Cases were notified during the year:—

- 2 Smallpox.
- 17 Cases of Scarlet Fever.
- 1 Diphtheria.
- 1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS CARTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1928.

URBAN DISTRICT OF FORMBY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1927.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres—7,308.

Population (Census, 1921)—6,318. Estimated, 1927—7,419

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1921)—1,317.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census, 1921)—
1,317.Rateable Value, £62,506. Sum represented by a penny
rate, £251 15s. 0d.Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the
inhabitants—Two Golf Clubs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.		Male.		Female.
Births in 1927	...	123	...	72	...	51
Deaths in 1927	...	64	...	37	...	27

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

		Birth rate.	Death rate.	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 years 1922—1926	...	13.1	10.3	0.75	40
1926	...	13.2	10.0	0.97	31
1927	...	16.5	8.6	0.40	40
Increase or Decrease in 1927 on—					
5 years' average..		+3.4	—1.7	—0.35	Nil
Previous year	...	+3.3	—1.4	—0.57	+9

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospital accommodation available:—

For Smallpox, situate at Bootle Joint Hospital.

For other Infectious Diseases, situate at Bootle Joint Hospital.

Maintenance: Smallpox, £4 4s. 0d.; other Infectious Diseases, £2 per week.

Patients are required to contribute towards cost of treatment where possible, according to means.

Number of Beds available for Smallpox—Unlimited.

For other Infectious Diseases—Unlimited.

Hospital accommodation available for the following:—

(a) Tuberculosis—None.

(b) Maternity Cases—None.

(c) Children—None.

(d) Other—None.

Union Infirmary, Ormskirk Union, Ormskirk.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children—None.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and Treatment):—

Voluntary Institution—Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Address of Centre—Rosemary Lane, Formby.

Day and time open—Wednesday, 3 p.m.

Day Nursery—None.

School Clinic—None.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—None.

Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre—None.

The Maternity Homes, &c., Act, 1926—

Maternity Homes in the district:—

Number registered—One.

Number exempted—None.

Observations *re* these Homes—Satisfactory.

Institutions under the Nursing Homes (Registration) Act, 1927:—

Ivy Bank Nursing Home, Elson Road, Formby.

Ambulance facilities:—

(a) For Infectious Cases—Bootle Motor Ambulance.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases—Police (Hand Ambulance).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—Francis Carter.

Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1927, £100 per annum.

Part-time Officer, Private Practitioner, also acts as Officer to the Police Authorities, and Post Office Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector—John Hodge.

Salary as Inspector at 31/12/1927, £260 per annum.
Whole-time Officer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—None.

Specialised Inspector (*e.g.*, Food Inspector)—None.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses—None.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Nature of arrangements in the district for—

(a) General Nursing—Nil.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, &c.—Nil.

The Local Authority does not contribute to any Voluntary Hospital.

There is a District Nursing Association in the District employing two District Nurses.

No arrangements exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work.

The Association undertakes Midwifery Cases.

No local scheme has yet been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants.

No midwives are employed by or assisted by the Local Authority.

Number of Midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1927—Number on Register, 4. Number actually practising, 4.

Comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the Midwifery service—Very good.

Legislation in force—

General Adoptive Acts—Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Parts, I, II, III, and IV, operative from August 13th, 1906; Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, August 13th, 1906; Private Street Works Act, 1892, March 5th, 1906.

(1) Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Sec. 27, comprised in Parts II, III and IV, operative from April 26th, 1920; Sec. 15, 16 and 25, comprised in Parts II and VI, February 13th, 1928.

(2) Public Health Acts, 1925, Part II, with the exception of Sec. 21 and 23, Parts III and IV, with the exception of Sec. 44, Part III, December, 1927, Sec. 44, Parts III and V, February 13th, 1928.

(1) Bye-laws—Nuisances, Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging Houses, Drainage Bye-laws.

(2) Observations—Good.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source and quality—Southport Water Board. Very hard.

Constant or intermittent—Constant. Temporary hardness.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied—Direct, 1,684. By stand pipe, Nil.

Possibilities of contamination—Nil.

Any liability to plumbor-solvent action—No.

Any insufficiency, and where—None.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year—Extensions along new streets.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken to check the pollution of streams—Five notices served to prevent pollution with sewage.

Sources and nature of pollution—Occupiers of houses causing overflows from cesspools to discharge into open water courses.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage Disposal Works, method of treatment—Septic Tanks, outfall to sea.

Drainage System—Gravitation.

Any extension or improvement in character and sufficiency during year—Piercefield Road and Derby Road sewered under the Private Streets Works Act, 1892. Length laid, 694 yards.

Areas without proper drainage system—Parts of Freshfield and Formby.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.—When required.

Closet accommodation at end of 1927:—

		1928
Privy Middens—Number of Middens.....	118	82
Number of Pail Closets.....	525	425
Number of Fresh Water Closets.....	1343	1655
Number of Waste Water Closets.....	Nil	—
Number of Closets attached to these Middens.....	140	86
Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens).....	316	275
Number of Moveable Ashbins for refuse.....	1202	1244

Conversions---

	During Year 1927.	During Five Years 1922—1926.	1928	1925
Number of Privy Closets:			1928	
To Fresh W.C.'s	2	29	2	3
To Waste W.C.'s	Nil	Nil		
To Pails, &c.	4	11	9	2
Number of Pail Closets:				
To Fresh W.C.'s	7	22	11	3
To Waste W.C.'s.....	Nil	Nil		
Number of Waste W.C.'s:				
To Fresh W.C.'s	Nil	Nil		
Number of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	9	81	13	

Policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets—Each case treated on its merits.

Whether Council contributes towards the cost of conversion—No.

Closet accommodation being provided for new property—Fresh W.C.'s.

Scavenging—

Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district—All streets regularly scavenged; House refuse weekly (bins); Ashpits when notified.

Performed by the Sanitary Authority by horse vehicles and tipping.

Whether a Destructor has been provided—No.

Refuse disposal—Tips away from residential area.

Sanitary Inspections during 1927—

Number of premises visited—227.

Defects or nuisances—Number discovered, 56; Number abated, 49.

Number of notices served—Informal, 56; Statutory, 11.

Legal proceedings—Nil.

Smoke Nuisance—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—None.

Number of Observations—17.

Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result—None.

Time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour—Four continuous minutes.

Offensive Trades—Nil.

Common Lodging Houses—Nil.

Houses let in Lodgings. Action taken or needed—None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c. Action taken or needed—Constant pressure to have same removed.

Underground Sleeping Rooms. Whether any need for Regulations—None.

Schools. Sanitary condition—Good. Water Supply, &c.—Mains.

Canal Boats—None.

4.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1927:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))—39.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

(i) By the Local Authority—Nil.

(ii) By other bodies or persons—39.

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme—Nil.

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—

Advances been made during 1927—

(a) By loans—None.

(b) By subsidy—39. Amount of subsidies, £2,925.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

- Inspections—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—23.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—23.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—19.

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—Nil.

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—19.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners—13.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close—Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit—Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—Nil.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—Nil.

D.—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owner, or converted to workshops, &c.—Nil.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

General Housing Conditions in the Area:—

Housing Conditions—Satisfactory.

Extent of shortage or excess of houses—None.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—Nil.

Overcrowding (if any). Extent and causes—Nil.

Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding—Nil.

Unhealthy Areas:—

Action taken (if any) or contemplated *re* unhealthy areas—Nil.

Local Authority's Housing Scheme:—

No scheme in hand or contemplated at present.

Town Planning:—

Town Planning Scheme in course of preparation.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915; The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926—Periodical inspection. Advice given to Cowkeepers respecting the alterations and improvements necessary to make existing cowsheds, etc., comply with the above Orders. Alterations are being carried out gradually.

Number of cases under 1915 Act referred to County Public Health Department—One.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—

Number of Dealers' licences issued during 1927 in respect of :—“ Certified ” Milk—One ; “ Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)” Milk—Nil ; “ Grade A ” Milk—Nil.

Number of licences issued in respect of “ Pasteurised ” Milk :—Pasteurising Plants—Nil ; Retail Distributors—Nil.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk—None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Whether periodically inspected—Yes.
Condition—Fair.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow—

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed—400.

(b) Where cows are not habitually grazed—800.

These figures are a basis. The methods of ventilation is taken into account.

Notices served during the year requiring additional window area in farm buildings—None.

Information as to cost of work undertaken to meet requirements of the Order—£80.

Cowkeepers. Number of Cowkeepers, 21 ; Number on Register, 21 ; Number of Inspections during year, 49.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers). Number of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers), 2 ; Number on Register, 2.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows—None.

Action taken by Local Authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous Milk—Samples taken and submitted to Prof. Beattie, Liverpool University, for bacteriological examination. Positive cases referred to the County Authority.

Number of samples submitted for bacteriological test. Result :—Positive—One ; Negative—21.

(ii) Tuberculous Cattle—One.

(b) Meat, &c.—Observations on—

Action taken with regard to meat and other food, including inspection of slaughter-houses, meat, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared—Periodical inspection.

Whether a public slaughter-house has been provided—
No.

Private slaughter-houses. Number registered—None;
Number licensed—2.

Bakehouses. Number—8; Condition—Satisfactory.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1927
as unfit for human consumption—None.

(c) Action taken (if any) by Local Authority in respect of—

(i) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None.

(ii) Milk and Cream Regulations—None.

(iii) Condensed and Dried Milk Regs—None.

(iv) The Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food)
Regulations—None.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally—

Two cases of Smallpox. The source of infection was traced to County Durham. Scarlet Fever, the chief source of infection was from one child to another in school.

Diphtheria antitoxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use—

Supply kept within the district at Mr. Woods (Chemist),
The Village, Formby.

Whether any other Vaccines or Sera are supplied free to
Medical Practitioners—No.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Any special occurrence—None.

Scarlet Fever.—Discovery of “return” cases—None.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—
Experience in regard to these diseases—None.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.—Laboratory
at which specimens are examined—Manchester
University.

Number of specimens examined in 1927:—

Sputum—2; Throat Swabs—4.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases—

(a) Contacts watched, (b) None, (c) Kept under observation.

Use made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases—None.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—Number of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health—None.

Whether the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the district:—

Measles—No; Whooping Cough—No; Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—No; Chicken-pox—No.

Observations.—Chicken-pox made notifiable for three months when Smallpox was in the district.

Number of times School Closure adopted during 1927 for—

Scarlet Fever—None; Whooping Cough—None; Diphtheria—None; Chicken-pox—None; Measles—None; Influenza—None; Any other diseases—None.

Number of Reports made during 1927 under Section 14 (5) Sanitary Officers Order, 1926—One.

Subject of Report—Smallpox.

Disinfection:—

Number of Houses disinfected during 1927—30.

Method—Formaldehyde Fumigation and Spray.

Whether Houses disinfected after

(a) Phthisis—Yes.

(b) Measles—If requested.

Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c.—Steam.

Number of Articles disinfected—346.

Where Apparatus situated—Bootle.

Arrangements for bathing verminous, &c., persons—None.

Number of instances in which disinfection has been carried out—One.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1927.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														HOSPITAL.	
“NOTIFIABLE” DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	YEARS.										Total Deaths in Hospitals removed to belonging to Hospital district	Total Deaths		
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45			45—65	65 and over
Smallpox ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever ...	17	—	—	—	2	—	7	6	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria, including Mem- branous Croup... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	21	1	—	—	2	—	7	7	2	2	—	—	—	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1927.

Age—Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.	
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
Years.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5—10	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	...	—	5	—	1	—	2
35—45	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	...	...	...	1	7	—	1	1	2

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths—None.

Whether notification of tuberculosis in the district is efficient—Yes.

Action taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify—None.

Whether there is any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district—No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

Action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade—None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

Action taken under Section 62—None.

Action taken under Section 67—Lectures, &c., on questions of health or disease—None.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Child Welfare Centre established.

Consultation and Treatment Centres—Boy Scouts' Headquarters, Rosemary Lane, Formby.

Arrangements for the supply of food and milk—Through Child Welfare Centre.

Arrangements for orthopædic treatment in areas in which such treatment is provided for children under 5 years of age—None.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Treated at Home—One.

Vision Unimpaired—One.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1927—Two roads sewered and made under Private Streets Works Act, 1892.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District—Extension to sewer where possible.

Signed,

FRANCIS CARTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

May 1st 1928.

